CONCEPT

Over half of the global population live in urban areas and with this figure forecast to rise, the demand for increasingly scarce natural resources continues to escalate. The “TURAS” initiative brings urban communities and businesses together with local authorities and researchers to collaborate on developing practical new solutions for more sustainable and resilient urban areas.

11 European cities (Brussels, Dublin, London, Rome, Sofia, Ljubljana, Nottingham, Seville, Rotterdam, Stuttgart, and Aalborg) are involved in the initial pilot studies of TURAS addressing issues such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, natural resource shortage, urban sprawl, green infrastructure, short-circuit economies and community participation in areas such as temporary usage of derelict sites and buildings.

The results emerging from these pilot studies will be measured and compared between participating urban areas before a final set of strategies and tools will be developed for exploitation by other European cities. Ultimately the Project will illustrate to urban communities, businesses, planners and managers how transition strategies may be created and implemented as we strive to move to more sustainable urban living.

OBJECTIVES

TURAS actively seeks the involvement of local businesses in building solutions for sustainability and resilience that are as good for the local economy as they are for the environment. To this end, TURAS invites local businesses to get involved in:

> assessing the potential to improve clean-tech, eco-design and Product Service Systems (PSS) processes in local businesses;

> proposing new government and agency programmes to support the implementation of such processes and to stimulate ‘localised’ business sectors such as the creative industries;

> creating an innovative, easily understood and visual rating system to assess the contribution of local businesses to local economies and to encourage local purchasers to use the ‘local’ rating as one of the criteria to consider in the case of supplier selection;

> participate in building an interactive online marketplace where local authorities, businesses and consumers can advertise their requirements and services and join with other local suppliers to tender for public procurement contracts.

Register your interest on www.turas-cities.eu